

The Connections between Social Anxiety and Curiosity

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Abstract

Among the anxiety disorders, social anxiety is second only to generalized anxiety disorder for comorbidity with major depression (Kessler et al., 2005). It can be defined as an extreme and irrational fear of social circumstances or performance situations; anxiety can arise from the fear of being closely watched, judged, and criticized by others, he or she can be afraid of making errors, looking bad, and being embarrassed or humiliated in front of others (Holt, Heimberg, Hope, & Liebowitz, 1992). Some may also worry that the symptoms like shaking or sweating palms will be visible to others and lead other people to assume that they are extremely anxious (Roth & Antony, 2001). Furthermore social anxiety has been linked to body dysmorphic disorder (Kelly, Walters & Phillips, 2009), social phobia, stress, fear in social situations and behavior submissiveness (Weeks, Heimberg, & Heuer, 2011). This makes social anxiety a very stressful disorder to handle and can cause major problem in one's life. Visual perception is influenced by the environment but can also be altered by mood. In fact, jealousy is a key player in altering vision. This study will explore the connection between visual perception, including hallucinations, and jealousy. By showing if there is a connection between visual perception and jealousy, we can improve the diagnosis of hallucination .